

Preliminary Amendment
Application No. 10/582,943
Attorney Docket No. 062669

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A tool for picking up and carrying dog dung comprising:
 - a shank having a shaft longitudinally linearly extending from a grip and at least one swinging support attached to the end of the shaft so as to have a swinging axial line in a direction intersecting with the shaft;
 - a receiver having an opening, which opens substantially in parallel with the swinging axial line, and a concave inner wall, the receiver being supported swingably about the swinging axial line by fitting at least one support disposed in the vicinity of the opening to the swinging support;
 - a lid having fringing means disposed substantially in parallel with the swinging axial line for closely covering the opening and a cover for covering the inside of the fringing means, the lid being supported swingably in a direction opposing the receiver by fitting at least one support disposed in the vicinity of its peripheral edge to the swinging support;
 - operating rod means having,
 - a rear link with its lower end connected rotatably back and forth to a boss provided at part of an outer wall of the receiver;
 - a front link with its lower end connected rotatably back and forth to a boss provided at part of an outer wall of the lid;
 - a link holder retained to the shaft for holding the upper ends of the rear link and the front link rotatably back and forth, and
 - an operating unit disposed at its upper side.

2. (Original) A tool for picking up and carrying dog dung comprising:

a shank having a shaft longitudinally linearly extending from a grip and a fork attached to the end of the shaft so as to linearly extend, forked ends of the fork laterally separating from each other, and to have swinging supports respectively attached to the forked ends along a swinging axial line in a direction intersecting the end portion of the shaft;

a receiver having an opening, which opens substantially in parallel with the swinging axial line, and an inner wall deeply fallen from the opening, the receiver being supported swingably about the swinging axial line by fitting supports disposed on both sides of the opening to the swinging supports inside the fork, respectively;

a lid having fringing means disposed substantially in parallel with the swinging axial line for closely covering the inside of the opening and a cover for covering the inside of the fringing means, the lid being supported swingably in a direction opposing the receiver by fitting supports disposed on both sides of its peripheral edge to the both swinging supports, respectively, in the inside of the receiver;

a rear link with its lower end connected rotatably back and forth to a boss provided at part of an outer wall of the receiver;

a front link with its lower end connected rotatably back and forth to a boss provided at part of an outer wall of the lid;

a link holder retained to the shaft movably in the vertical direction for holding the rear link and the front link rotatably back and forth by connecting the upper ends of the links to the link holder; and

operating rod means having an operating unit disposed at its upper end.

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3. (Original) The tool according to Claim 2, wherein the receiver includes an inner wall fallen in a shape of a semi-revolution solid rotated about the swinging axial line and an opening, which flatly opens substantially in parallel with the swinging axial line, the receiver being supported swingably about the singing axial line by fitting supports disposed on the both sides of the opening to both the swinging supports of the fork; and the lid includes the fringing means for closely covering the inside of the opening and a cover for covering the inside of the fringing means, the lid being supported swingably about the singing axial line in a direction opposing the receiver by fitting the supports disposed on both sides of the fringing means to the both swinging supports in the inside of the receiver, respectively.

4. (Original) The tool according to Claim 3, wherein the lid includes fringing means for closely covering the inside of the opening of the receiver and a cover for covering the inside of the fringing means by approaching the inner wall of the receiver so as to protrude in a shape of a semi-revolution solid rotated about the swinging axial line, the lid being supported swingably about the swinging axial line in a direction opposing the receiver by fitting the supports disposed on both sides of the fringing means to the both swinging supports in the inside of the receiver, respectively.

5. (Original) The tool according to Claim 2, wherein the receiver includes an inner wall fallen in a hemispherical shape rotated about the swinging axial line and an opening, which flatly opens substantially in parallel with the swinging axial line, the receiver being supported swingably about the singing axial line by fitting supports disposed on the both sides of the opening to both the swinging supports, respectively, inside the fork; and the lid includes fringing

means for closely covering the inside of the opening and a cover for covering the inside of the fringing means by approaching the inner wall of the receiver so as to protrude in a hemispherical shape, the lid being supported swingably about the swinging axial line in a direction opposing the receiver by fitting the supports disposed on both sides of the fringing means to the both swinging supports in the inside of the receiver, respectively; so that the entire of the receiver and the lid has a substantially spherical shape when the lid is held in a closed position.

6. (Original) A tool for picking up and carrying dog dung comprising:
 - a shank having a shaft longitudinally linearly extending from a grip and a fork attached to the end of the shaft so as to linearly extend, forked ends of the fork laterally separating from each other, and to have swinging supports respectively attached to the forked ends along a swinging axial line in a direction intersecting the end portion of the shaft;
 - a receiver having an opening, which opens substantially in parallel with the swinging axial line, and an inner wall deeply fallen from the opening, the receiver being supported swingably about the swinging axial line by fitting supports disposed on both sides of the opening to the swinging supports inside the fork, respectively;
 - a lid having fringing means disposed substantially in parallel with the swinging axial line for closely covering the outside of the opening and a cover for covering the inside of the fringing means, the lid being supported swingably in a direction opposing the receiver by fitting supports disposed on both sides of its peripheral edge to the both swinging supports, respectively, in the outside of the receiver;
 - a rear link with its lower end connected rotatably back and forth to a boss provided at part of an outer wall of the receiver;

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a front link with its lower end connected rotatably back and forth to a boss provided at part of an outer wall of the lid;

a link holder retained to the shaft movably in the vertical direction for holding the rear link and the front link rotatably back and forth by connecting the upper ends of the links to the link holder; and

operating rod means having an operating unit disposed at its upper end.

7. (Original) The tool according to Claim 6, wherein the receiver includes an inner wall fallen in a hemispherical shape rotated about the swinging axial line and an opening, which flatly opens substantially in parallel with the swinging axial line, the receiver being supported swingably about the singing axial line by fitting supports disposed on the both sides of the opening to both the swinging supports, respectively, inside the fork; and the lid includes fringing means for closely covering the outside of the opening and a cover for covering the inside of the fringing means by protruding in a hemispherical shape, the lid being supported swingably about the singing axial line in a direction opposing the receiver by fitting the supports disposed on both sides of the fringing means to the both swinging supports in the outside of the receiver, respectively; so that the entire of the receiver and the lid has a shape of a substantial sphere when the lid is held in a closed position.

8. (Original) The tool according to Claim 1, wherein the shank includes a shaft longitudinally linearly extending from a grip and one swinging support attached to the end of the shaft so as to have a swinging axial line in a direction intersecting with the shaft; the receiver includes an opening, which opens substantially in parallel with the swinging axial line, and a

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concave inner wall, the receiver being supported swingably about the swinging axial line by fitting one support disposed in the rear side in the vicinity of the opening to the swinging support; and the lid includes fringing means disposed substantially in parallel with the swinging axial line for closely covering the opening and a cover for covering the inside of the fringing means, the lid being supported swingably in a direction opposing the receiver by fitting one support disposed in the rear side in the vicinity of its peripheral edge to the swinging support.

9. (Original) The tool according to Claim 1, wherein the shank includes a shaft longitudinally linearly extending from a grip, a swinging support of the receiver attached to the end of the shaft so as to have a swinging axial line in a direction intersecting with the shaft, and a swinging support of the lid disposed in parallel with the swinging support of the receiver; the receiver includes an opening, which opens substantially in parallel with the swinging axial line, and a concave inner wall, the receiver being supported swingably about the swinging axial line by fitting one support disposed in the rear side in the vicinity of the opening to the swinging support of the receiver; and the lid includes fringing means disposed substantially in parallel with the swinging axial line for closely covering the opening and a cover for covering the inside of the fringing means, the lid being supported swingably in a direction opposing the receiver by fitting one support disposed in the rear side in the vicinity of its peripheral edge to the swinging support of the lid.

10. (Currently Amended) The tool according to Claim 1 or 2 ~~or 3 or 5 or 8 or 9~~, wherein the fringing means is made of an outer flange bent outside from the periphery of one of the receiver and the lid so as to closely approach the inner wall of the other.

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11. (Currently Amended) The tool according to Claim 1 or 2 or ~~3 or 5 or 8 or 9~~, wherein the fringing means is made of a ring mounting portion disposed in the periphery of the lid and a seal ring fitted into the ring mounting portion so as to closely touch the inner wall of the receiver from the opening of the receiver.

12. (Currently Amended) The tool according to Claim 1, 2 or 6 or ~~8 or 9~~, wherein the operating rod means includes an operating unit slidably fitted to the shaft of the shank, the operating unit including an operation lever protruding in at least one direction intersecting the shaft and a stop lever bent rearward and supported to the lower inside of the operation lever by swinging holding means crosswise swingably towards and away from the shaft like a seesaw, and the stop lever having a stop pin arranged at the lower end of the stop lever for coming in and out of the shaft, and

wherein the shaft includes stop hole means provided at a stopping position of the stop pin on the shaft of the shank.

13. (Currently Amended) The tool according to Claim 1, 2 or 6 or ~~8 or 9~~, wherein the operating rod means includes an operating unit slidably fitted to the shaft of the shank, the operating unit including an operation lever protruding in at least one direction intersecting the shaft; an upper stop lever having a lever portion retained in the operation lever swingably in up and down directions by upper swinging holding means and upward exposed at least partly from the operation lever, a stop projection coming in and out of the shaft by swinging in front and rear directions toward the shaft from a root side, and an upper connection gear arranged in the lower

side of the upper swinging holding means; a lower stop lever having a lever portion retained in the operation lever by lower swinging holding means symmetrically with the upper stop lever and downward exposed at least partly from the operation lever and a lower connection gear arranged in the upper side of the lower swinging holding means so as to mesh with the upper connection gear, the lower stop lever swinging in direction opposing the upper stop lever; an opening spring arranged between the lever portions of both the upper and lower stop levers; and stop hole means provided in stopping portions of the shaft to be stopped by the stop projection.

14. (Currently Amended) The tool according to Claim 1, 2 or 6 or ~~8 or 9~~, wherein the operating rod means includes an operating unit slidably fitted to the shaft of the shank, the operating unit including an operation lever protruding in at least one direction intersecting the shaft; an upper stop lever having a lever portion retained in the operation lever swingably in up and down directions by upper swinging holding means and upward exposed from the operation lever, a stop claw swinging in back and forth directions towards the shaft from a root side, and an upper connection gear arranged in the lower side of the upper swinging holding means; and a lower stop lever having a lever portion retained in the operation lever by lower swinging holding means symmetrically with the upper stop lever and downward exposed from the operation lever, a stop claw swinging in back and forth directions towards the shaft from a root side, and a lower connection gear arranged in the upper side of the lower swinging holding means so as to mesh with the upper connection gear, the lower stop lever swinging in direction opposing the upper stop lever; and an opening spring arranged between the lever portions of both the upper and lower stop lever.

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15. (Currently Amended) The tool according to Claim 1, 2 or 6 ~~or 8 or 9~~, wherein the operating rod means includes a rod portion slidably fitted to the shaft of the shank and resistance holding means, with a predetermined movement resistance, composed of elastic notch means fixed to one side between the shaft and the operation rod for protruding toward the other wall by elasticity and notch groove means provided in a wall corresponding to the other side for fitting the elastic notch means therein.

16. (Currently Amended) The tool according to Claim 1, 2 or 6 ~~or 8 or 9~~, wherein the shank includes a T-shaped grip arranged at the upper end of the shaft and intersecting the shaft in back and forth direction.

17. (Currently Amended) The tool according to Claim 1, 2 ~~or 3~~ or 6, wherein the receiver includes a protruding leg formed on the bottom.